

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06163 251429Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 SCA-01 SS-20 NSC-07 PRS-01

H-03 SAJ-01 SP-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 251358Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8231

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR CASC

SUBJECT: INCIDENT IN SUKHUMI

REF: MOSCOW 5701

1. CONSOFF DELIVERED NOTE APRIL 25 TO MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION (CHERNIGOV) ON SUBJECT OF DISAPPEARANCE OF AMCIT FRIEDMAN'S PERSONAL PROPERTY APRIL 15 IN SUKHUMI AND SUBSEQUENT POLICE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IN PRO FORMA MANNER. NOTE REQUESTED MFA TO INTERCEDE WITH SUKHUMI AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN FULL INVESTIGATION AND RETURN OF PROPERTY. NOTE ALSO CALLED MFA'S ATTENTION TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES' REFUSALS TO CONNECT FRIEDMAN WITH EMBASSY, ACTION WHICH AMOUNTED TO VIOLATION OF "ACCESS" PROVISION OF ARTICLE 12(1) OF US-USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION. (COPY OF NOTE POUCHEO EUR/SOV).

2. IN REPLY CHERNIGOV SAID HE WAS NOT ACQUAINTED WITH INCIDENT BUT REJECTED ANY SUGGESTION THAT PROPERTY'S DISAPPEARANCE WAS NOT RESULT OF GENUINE THEFT. SUCH THEFTS OCCUR IN THE CAUCASUS, FOR "CUSTOMS ARE DIFFERENT" THERE. HE CONTINUED: "IT IS POSSIBLE AMERICAN TOURIST REACHED WRONG CONCLUSION ABOUT DIAPPARANCE OF PROPERTY BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T KNOW THESE PEOPLE. IF YOU ASK SOME RUSSIANS ABOUT CAUCASIANS, THEY WOULD

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 06163 251429Z

SAY THEY ROB AND RAPE." CHERNIGOV, WHO SEEMED WILLING TO TALK

AT LENGTH ABOUT DEFECTS OF CAUCASIAN PEOPLES, AGREED THAT
BEST APPROACH IS TO FORWARD SUMMARY OF NOTE TO SUKHUMI
AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR REPORT.

3. ON QUESTION OF APPLICABILITY OF ARTICLE 12 TO INCIDENT,
CHERNIGOV EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT FRIEDMAN'S DESCRIPTION OF HER
EFFORTS TO REACH EMBASSY BUT SEEMED TO ACCEPT ARGUMENT THAT
LOCAL SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE RESPONSIBILITY IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES
TO CONNECT AMCIT PROMPTLY TO EMBASSY.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW06163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740098-0083
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740415/aaaaamll.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 5701
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT IN SUKHUMI
TAGS: CASC, UR, (FRIDEMAN, BETH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005